

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, line 7, please delete "a" and substitute therefor -- an -- ;

On page 5, line 15 after "cartoon" please insert -- or human -- . Support for this change can be found in claim 3;

On page 6, line 6, after "durable", please insert -- material -- ;

On page 6, line 9, after "stretch", please insert -- in the direction indicated by the arrow 37--;

and

On page 9, line 11, please delete "54" and substitute therefor -- 55 -- .

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and substitute new claims 16-31 therefor.

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16. (New) A bookmark for use in between pages of a book having a spine and a binding comprising:
a flexible, elongated, intermediate member having a first end and an opposing second end, said member having a predetermined length and being sufficiently thin to extend between the pages of the book and along the length of the spine of the book without stretching its binding;
a top anchor having a thickness in a direction substantially perpendicular to the length of the intermediate member and being in the form of a first portion of a character including a head and secured to said first end;
- A Sub B*

(S)
a bottom anchor having a thickness in a direction substantially perpendicular to the length of the spine) and being in the form of a second portion of said character complementing said first portion and secured to said second end;

(P)
wherein the length of said intermediate member may be extended from its predetermined length to accommodate books of different sizes; and

(P)
wherein said anchors inhibit removal of the bookmark in a direction parallel to the length of the spine when the book is closed and the bookmark inserted therein.

17. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said intermediate member is a stretchable ribbon formed of an elastomeric material.

18. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said character includes animal features.

19. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said character includes cartoon character features.

20. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said character includes human features.

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and
21. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:
said character includes humanoid features.
 22. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:
said top anchor includes an upper torso supporting said head and a set of upper limbs;
said bottom anchor includes a lower torso attached to a pair of lower limbs.
 23. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 22 wherein:
said lower limbs are constructed to retain a coiled portion of said intermediate member therebetween.
 24. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:
said top and bottom anchors are made of a plush material.
 25. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:
said top anchor includes a first fastener element; and
said bottom anchor includes a second fastener element constructed for releasable engagement with said first fastener element.

26. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 25 wherein:

said first fastener element and said second fastener element comprise a snap.

27. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 25 wherein:

said first fastener element is in the form of a series of hooks and said second fastener is in the form of a pile material having a set of loops.

28. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

a length of said intermediate member is coiled around said bottom anchor and said top anchor rests against said bottom anchor to assume a storage position for the bookmark in the form of said character in a sitting position when the bookmark is not inserted within the book.

29. (New) A bookmark as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said top and bottom anchors are three-dimensional.

30. (New) A bookmark for insertion between the pages of a book including a spine and comprising:

a thin, flexible, elongated, stretchable connector having a first end and an opposing second end, said connector having a predetermined width;